

THE RURAL DISTRICT  
of  
SAFFRON WALDEN

in the  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX

♦♦♦♦♦

THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

*of the*  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

*For the Year 1945*




THE RURAL DISTRICT  
of  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
in the  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

*of the*  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

*For the Year 1945*



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30065513>

## PREFACE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1945.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the district for the year was 16,400. This represents an increase of 610 on the estimate for 1939, which may be taken as the previous year of normal conditions.

During this intervening period, the number of inhabited houses increased from 4,890 to 4,909, so that the ratio of population to occupied houses is slightly higher than in pre-war years.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population for the year 1945, was 13.8; that for the previous year was 13.4, and the average for the five years preceding the outbreak of war was 13.3.

The Birth Rate for the year was 14.3; while the rate for 1944 was 17.3, and the average rate for the five pre-war years was 12.1.

The Infant Mortality Rate for 1945 was 34 per 1,000 births; for the previous year the rate was 40.9 per 1,000 births, and the average rate for the five pre-war years was 34.4.

The Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (Mr. A. E. Pitstow) retired in August, 1945, after more than 40 years of service. Possibly the last five were the most strenuous of these years, for the strain of arduous and perplexing war-time duties fell heavily on officers of the understaffed Local Authorities. But, in this district, the previous five years had established a record in progress which will be difficult to equal, and Mr. Pitstow's contributions to this record were many. Having carried out a complete housing survey with characteristic thoroughness, he prepared the plans for an extensive building programme throughout the district.

The fact that his programme was delayed, and the greater part of it had eventually to be abandoned on the outbreak of war, was a bitter disappointment, but the portion completed will stand as an example of sound work.

S. R. RICHARDSON.

Medical Officer of Health

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 78,585 Acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1945) : 16,400.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to rate books : 4,909.

Rateable Value. £67,859.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £278 0s. 0d.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR :

LIVE BIRTHS	{	Legitimate	...	209	108	101	{	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 14.3
		Illegitimate	...	26	15	11		

STILLBIRTHS	{	Legitimate	...	8	5	5	{	Rate per 1,000 total births (live and stillbirths)	32.9
		Illegitimate	...	0	0	0			

DEATHS	...	...	...	227	126	101	{ Death Rate per 1000 of the esti- mated resident population 13.8
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

DEATHS from Puerperal causes :—

From Puerperal Sepsis, None	{ Rate per 1,000 total births, Nil
From other Puerperal Causes, None	

DEATHS of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	8	{ Total 8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	

DEATH RATE of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births, 34.

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births, 38.2.

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births, 0.

DEATHS from Measles (all ages), None.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages), None.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), None.

„ „ Cancer, 39.

DEATHS at various ages :—

		No. in district	Outward Transfers	Inward Transfers	Those which apply to district
Under 1 year ...	...	3	0	5	8
1 and under 2	...	0	0	0	0
2 „ „ 5	...	1	0	1	2
5 „ „ 15	...	0	0	1	1
15 „ „ 25	...	4	3	1	2
25 „ „ 35	...	2	1	1	2
35 „ „ 45	...	1	0	3	4
45 „ „ 55	...	5	1	8	12
55 „ „ 55	...	15	1	16	30
65 „ „ 75	...	32	2	24	54
75 and over	...	72	4	44	112
TOTAL ...	...	135	12	104	227

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :—

*Medical Officer of Health* :—

S. R. RICHARDSON, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspectors* :—

A. E. PITSTOW, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (Retired 31st August, 1945).

A. ARMES, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Foods. (Appointed 1st September, 1945).

*Hospitals*.—The area normally served by the Isolation Hospital is approximately 134 square miles, and the estimated population of this area is 23,376. Patients are also admitted from neighbouring districts in accordance with a mutual agreement.

Under the County Council Scheme for securing the co-ordination of Isolation Hospital accommodation in North-West Essex, the Borough of Saffron Walden is grouped with six neighbouring Sanitary Districts.

Normally, any additional accommodation which may be required within the seven Sanitary Districts would be provided by all the Local Authorities acting together as a unit. But when war became imminent the Joint Board of the Saffron Walden Borough and Rural Diistricts considered the provision of additional accommodation an urgent necessity, as the existing accommodation of sixteen beds at the Saffron Walden Isolation Hospital was the minimum specified in the Scheme for the area normally served, and it had been realised that additional accommodation would be required in the event of any increase of the population in the area.

The Board therefore decided to proceed with the erecting of an emergency block to take sixteen beds. Subsequently, a grant was received from the Home Office to meet the expenses incurred, on the understanding that the sixteen beds should be held available for persons coming into the district under the Evacuation Scheme.

The Isolation Hospital has now a total accommodation of 32 beds, and the total number of patients admitted during the year was 63. Of these, 14 were evacuees, 10 were from neighbouring districts, and six were service patients.



During the five years ending 31st December, 1944, 939 patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Of these, 279 belonged to the area normally served by the hospital, 143 were evacuees, 118 were from neighbouring districts, and 399 were service patients.

The County Council is responsible for the treatment of Smallpox cases occurring in the Administrative County. The Smallpox Hospital is situated at Colchester.

There were no alterations in the arrangements regarding Nursing, Clinics and Treatment Centres.

*Laboratory facilities.*—Bacteriological laboratory service: the Essex County Council's Scheme serves this district, specimens being sent to St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. Samples of milk are examined by the Essex Institute of Agriculture, Writtle.

*Ambulance facilities.*—The emergency arrangements, organised to meet the greatly increased ambulance work during the war years, had worked smoothly until serious difficulties arose towards the end of the year 1944. The voluntary drivers who were members of the St. John and British Red Cross Organisations, were also enrolled in Civil Defence, and A.R.P. Headquarters was used as a general ambulance depot. When this arrangement terminated the ambulance service was left without a depot where calls could be received and dealt with.

The only garage owned by the Local Authority was at the Isolation Hospital, where the more reliable of their two ambulances is kept. The Joint Committee, therefore, agreed to appoint a whole-time ambulance Officer, and proposed to employ him at the Isolation Hospital, where his services would be of use to both Authorities, with the added advantage of being near his ambulance, and having the use of a constant telephone service.

It was not found possible to carry out this scheme, however, and up to the present the responsibility for dealing with calls and manning the ambulance is shared between two part-time drivers.

*Water.*—A comprehensive scheme for the provision of a piped-supply to all parishes was completed in 1938, and at the outbreak of war, over 100 miles of mains had been laid, and more than 1,200 properties had already been connected. In the following year it was possible to complete certain extensions which had been approved, and in 1941 the

inter-connection of all four pumping stations were effected. A junction was also made with the Stansted Water Company's main.

Chlorination Plants were fixed at each pumping station in 1942, and a Filtration Plant provided in the Southern supply.

Samples were taken quarterly from all supplies during the year 1945, and the Analyst's reports were consistently satisfactory.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—As no works were carried out during the war years, the position in 1945 was much the same as in 1939. The Council's Consulting Engineer had reported on the inadequacy of the Stansted Sewage Works, and recommended a modernised system. It soon became evident that the Newport works required enlargement. Negotiations were resumed with the Saffron Walden Borough Council, for the inclusion of the parishes of Chesterford and Littlebury in their proposed scheme for new works for the Borough, which had also been suspended.

Now that every village has a piped water-supply, the possibility of providing each with modern sewerage is less remote. It is hoped that financial assistance for this purpose will be greater than that received for the water supply schemes, when more than 80 per cent. of the cost was borne by the Local Authority, and it seems probable that more liberal grants will be available under the Sewerage and Water Act of 1944.

*Public Cleansing—Seavenging.*—The systematic scavenging of the area, which was approved by the Council in 1938, and began to operate two years later, has proved to be a very successful scheme. During the war years, it enabled the Council to undertake extensive salvage work, the profit made on salvaged materials returned to industry being greater than the increased expenditure on transport, etc. Although the annual income from the source fell from £958 in 1914 to £492 in 1945, it is hoped that it will again increase as the necessity for continued National effort is appreciated.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK AND DAIRIES ORDERS.

*National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.*—The object of this Scheme is to prevent, as far as possible, the serious loss of milk from souring, which occurred during the first two years of the war.

While it is vital to secure as much milk as possible in the interests of nutrition both production and distribution have been made more difficult by shortage of labour and materials, and other war-time conditions. It has, therefore, been decided to concentrate attention upon methods and cleanliness.

The Testing and Advisory Scheme is carried out under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and details of the procedure have been explained to all Local Authorities in various Ministry of Health circulars.

Under this Scheme, all milk delivered from farms is sampled and tested ; a special form of test being used which has been adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the specific purpose of determining the keeping quality of milk.

In cases where unsatisfactory results are obtained, the Executive Committee send an Inspector to the farms to ascertain why the milk is defective, and to suggest remedies.

While the testing is done in Trade Laboratories, and Local Authorities are not concerned in the actual sampling, in order to secure co-operation all unsatisfactory cases are reported to the Local Authority, whose Inspector accompanies the representative of the War Agricultural Executive Committee on his advisory visits to the farms in question.

In addition to the milk testing supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, routine sampling work is undertaken by the Essex County Council. Under the County Scheme at least six samples per year are obtained from farms licensed to produce T.T. or Accredited Milk ; if unsatisfactory results are obtained the number is exceeded. Where milk is supplied to schools, one sample per school term is obtained at the school, and submitted to various tests.

The responsibilities of Local Authorities, under the Milk and Dairies Orders, are not affected by either of these Schemes, but they are advised to concentrate chiefly on the methods of handling, processing and conveyance of milk ; buildings being of secondary importance.

## HOUSING

Under the Housing Act of 1935, a form of subsidy was made available which was suitable to rural conditions, but as the extent of the subsidy depended on the number of unfit cottages demolished, it had been necessary to carry out prolonged and difficult preliminaries, including a complete housing survey of the district, before the building programme could be put into operation. Consequently, by the end of 1939, progress had been made in only one village when building was suspended.

Although the limitation of repair work during the war years resulted in a deterioration of existing cottages, it has been realised that the provision of new houses is the first essential in the post-war programme. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Council with regard to the use of vacant properties, and consequent increase in the number of occupied houses, the lack of accommodation was still greater.

Apart from the more obvious causes of shortage in accommodation, an important factor is the high proportion of elderly persons living in the district where the average age of the inhabitants has always been unusually high. The extent to which this factor can effect the situation may be appreciated when it is realised that in this country the number of people over 80 has more than doubled during the past 30 years, and that less than 14 per cent. of the present total of those who have reached this age are in Public Assistance Institutions.

Another important fact in this connection is that the majority of these old folks are living in old cottages, many of which are unsuitable for families. A considerable number of them could not, in fact, be regarded as fit for habitation according to modern standards, but their occupants wish to remain in them.

A survey for the purpose of ascertaining the present position of overcrowding, and general conditions of houses in the district, was commenced during the year.



## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was again low, and no deaths were attributed to any of the ordinary forms of infection.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—With regard to immunisation against Diphtheria, the position at the end of the year was much the same as it had been at the end of the previous year. The regular Clinics which had been held at Saffron Walden, Stansted, Newport and Debden, had made it possible to maintain the average number of children immunised at a reasonably high level.

The proportion of school-children immunised remained at the 80 per cent. level, and so far as could be estimated, allowing for considerable movement of population, the proportion for those under school-age was not less than 60 per cent.

The reason for the relatively poor response in the case of the younger children has been due chiefly to the fact that the smaller Local Authorities do not possess the staff necessary for maintaining contact with the parents.

In November, 1945, instructions were issued by the Ministry of Health to the effect that Welfare Authorities, who are already responsible for the care of children under school-age and possess the staff for personal contact with parents, should be made responsible for the immunisation of infants and children under school-age, while Local Authorities continue to provide facilities for the immunisation of school-children, and to be primarily responsible for all records.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING THE YEAR 1945

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox .. .. .	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	16	10	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	1	1	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	4	—	6
Erysipelas .. .. .	2	—	—
Other Diseases notifiable (Jaundice) ..	4	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	9	—	—
Measles .. .. .	194	6	—
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	1	1	—
Typhus Fever .. .. .	1	1	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods					NEW CASES				DEATHS			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .. .. .					—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .. .. .					—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
5 .. .. .					—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—
15 .. .. .					2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 .. .. .					—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 .. .. .					1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
45 .. .. .					1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 .. .. .					2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 upwards .. .. .					—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .. .. .					6	7	7	3	3	3	—	—

# REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of work carried out during the year 1945. For the purpose of economy, this is presented in abbreviated form as far as possible.

At this point I should like to pay tribute to the notable work carried out by my predecessor, Mr. Alfred Pitstow, who retired from the position of Sanitary Inspector at the end of August, 1945.

As my appointment did not take effect until 1st September, the majority of the figures given relate to the latter four months of the year.

## INSPECTION OF DISTRICT :

<i>Nature of Inspection.</i>	<i>No. of Visits.</i>
Housing Inspections and Re-visits ... ..	35
Inspections re Unsatisfactory Housing Accommodation, overcrowding, etc. ... ..	17
Inspections in connection with Public Health Nuisances	20
„ of premises infested with Bed Bugs ...	10
„ „ Schools ... ..	1
Investigations in connection with Infectious Diseases ...	26
Inspections of rat-infested premises ... ..	11
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..	79
„ „ Bake-houses ... ..	20
„ „ Slaughterhouses and Knacker Yards ...	14
„ „ food premises, shops, etc. ... ..	16
„ „ Factories ... ..	12
„ „ existing drainage and new drainage works	49
„ „ Sewage Works ... ..	37
„ „ Refuse Tips ... ..	70
„ in connection with Scavenging ... ..	34
„ „ „ „ Requisitioned Properties and proposed Requisitioning ...	135
„ „ connection with Government Evacuation Scheme ... ..	71
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	16
Total number of Visits ...	<hr/> 673 <hr/>



# FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES TABLES

## I. INSPECTION

PREMISES (1)	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prose- cutions (4)
FACTORIES			
with mechanical power	5	2	—
without mechani- cal power	4	—	—
WORKPLACES	3	—	—
Total ...	12	2	—

## 2. DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			Number of Prose- cutions (5)
	Found (2)	Reme- died (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
,, ,, Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary (insufficient) ...	—	—	—	—
Accommodation (unsuitable or defective) ...	2	2	—	—
(not separate for sexes) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—

HOUSING :

In common with all other districts, housing conditions have become steadily worse owing to lack of labour and materials, and the consequent inability of owners to carry out regular maintenance works. These latter are especially necessary in this area, where many of the cottages are of stud, plaster and thatch, which require frequent attention to prevent rapid deterioration, and call for special craftsmanship which is not easily available.

The position regarding overcrowding has become worse with the return of demobilised men and women, and housing accommodation is virtually impossible to obtain in many parts of the district. It is hoped that the building programme shortly to be embarked upon by the Council will, at least, alleviate the position during the coming months.

24 Preliminary and eight Statutory Notices were issued in connection with housing repairs, and all but two were complied with or the work was in progress at the end of the year.

The survey called for by the Committee on Rural Housing (Hob-house), whereby all dwelling-houses are to be inspected and categorised, was commenced in the District in December, and it is hoped to complete this task within the next eighteen months.

In an effort to ensure that all potential housing accommodation was put to proper use, all properties found to be vacant or not regularly occupied were investigated, and the following figures show the satisfactory results obtained :—

Vacant properties investigated ... ..	52
Number considered unsuitable for occupation	7
„ occupied following preliminary action	35
„ „ „ service of Requisition Notice ... ..	8
„ awaiting repairs before occupation ...	2

WATER SUPPLIES :

With the provision of a piped-supply to all parishes, the District may be said to be well served with water, except for a number of out-lying premises for which it is hoped to make provision in “post-war” schemes.

The maintenance of the pumping stations was carried out satisfactorily, despite the extra demand caused by the presence of military units in the area. With the withdrawal of these, working conditions have become normal.

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE :

Samples of effluent at the Stansted and Newport Sewage Works indicate that both works are inadequate for the volume of sewage dealt with, and it is hoped that the modernisation of the Stansted Works and enlargement of those at Newport will receive early attention when consideration of new schemes takes place.

19 new domestic drainage proposals were investigated and approved, and 12 new systems inspected and tested upon completion. Three Preliminary Notices issued in respect of defective drainage were complied with.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING :

The scavenging of the Area is carried out by two Contractors, whereby monthly collections are made in each parish, with the exception of Stansted, Newport, Great Chesterford and Littlebury, where fortnightly collections are made. It is apparent however, that possibly, owing to labour and transport difficulties, many householders, especially in the rural villages, are faced with the difficulty of disposing of certain materials, deposits of which undoubtedly give rise to nuisance from flies and rats. Upon the renewal of contracts under more normal conditions, attention will undoubtedly be given to this point and also the question of suitable covered vehicles being used.

A weekly collection of night soil is carried out by contract in the parishes of Littlebury and Great Chesterford, and in the small unsewered portion of Newport.

## SALVAGE :

In common with many other districts, the public's co-operation in the National Salvage Campaign tended to wane with the coming of peace, as will be seen by the following figures. Propaganda is needed to remind house-holders that the need for salvage will undoubtedly continue for some time to come.

Disposed of :—

1945.					1944.		
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
Waste-paper ...	50	17	2	...	103	4	—
Bones ...	6	8	2	...	7	4	—
Rags ...	2	18	2	...	2	16	2
Bottles and Jars	1	—	—	...	Nil.		
Metals ...	11	—	2	...	20	8	—
Miscellaneous	8	10	—	...	9	10	2
Total Income for year £492 5s. 3d.					£958 0s. 6d.		

## INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### MILK SUPPLIES :

A survey of all cowsheds and dairies in the district was in progress at the end of the year, and attention was drawn to infringements of the Milk and Dairies Orders found during inspection of the 130 Registered Producers in the District.

There are 15 “T.T.” Licences and 17 Accredited Licences held by producers in the District, and these 32 supplies of Graded Milk are sampled six times yearly by the Essex County Council Public Health Department, with whom close co-operation is maintained, especially in connection with the granting of new Licences.

Two new cowsheds and four new dairy premises were constructed during the year, and many works of improvement carried out to existing premises. There appears to be growing enthusiasm among cow-keepers to produce “T.T.” grade milk, and it is hoped that the time is not far distant when all milk sold for human consumption will have to comply with a minimum cleanliness standard.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :

Frequent visits have been made to all food premises, and despite difficulties of labour and equipment, the general standard of cleanliness at these premises appears to be satisfactory.

As centralised slaughtering is carried out in the Borough, the majority of carcasses inspected were of pigs slaughtered under Food Office Licence. Of the 20 inspected, four were found to be affected with tuberculosis in one or more organs.

Foodstuffs “condemned” as unfit for human consumption are detailed below :—

Beef	...	...	...	185 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	54 „
Imported Fruit	...	...	...	36 „

*Canned Foods :*

Pilchards	...	...	...	14 tins
Salmon	...	...	...	6 „
Herrings	...	...	...	6 „
Sardines	...	...	...	5 „
Luncheon and Sausage Meat	...	...	...	8 „
Chopped Ham	...	...	...	18 „
Steak	...	...	...	5 „
Condensed and Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	33 „
Peas	...	...	...	7 „
Beans	...	...	...	26 „
Marmalade, Honey, etc.	...	...	...	8 „

All Bake-houses were inspected at intervals, and three Preliminary Notices issued in respect of want of lime-washing or general cleanliness were complied with promptly.

RAT DESTRUCTION :

The four Refuse Tips and two Disposal Works maintained by the Council were treated regularly for the destruction of rats by the Agricultural Committee Pest Department, in accordance with Contracts and such treatments were, on the whole, successful.

Preliminary baiting tests of the Newport and Stansted Sewers indicate that the latter system requires treatment, and this is due to begin shortly. Whilst several infestations of dwelling-houses were treated by the occupiers themselves or by the Council's contractors, house-holders are reluctant to complain on learning that the expense of such treatment falls upon them.



## GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME :

At the beginning of the year under review, the number of evacuees receiving billeting allowances or housed in requisitioned properties, hostels, etc., totalled 1,096 persons. With the cessation of air raids, many of these returned home, and in accordance with instructions the remainder were urged to endeavour to make their own arrangements for billeting. By the end of the year only five unaccompanied children remained billeted under the scheme, in addition to 209 people housed in requisitioned or commandeered properties.

Evacuation duties were transferred to the Public Health Department in September, 1945, and during the ensuing four months efforts were made to close down the scheme as far as circulated instructions allowed.

## GENERAL NUISANCES, ETC. :

Of 18 Preliminary Notices issued, all but one had been complied with at the end of the year.

Six cottages were found to be infested with bed bugs, and opportunity was taken to test the efficiency of preparations containing D.D.T. In two cases complete success has been achieved, and it is hoped that this new insecticide will in due course rid the district of this pest. A system was instituted at the end of the year whereby disinfestation of dwellings and furniture, etc., is carried out where necessary, before removal to Council Houses is permitted.

## CONCLUSION :

This being my first Annual Report since my appointment, it will be realised that opportunity has not been available to obtain a complete and detailed picture.

However, with the ending of hostilities and the closing down of certain emergency services, Evacuation in particular, it is hoped to slowly bring about a return to improved conditions by the implementation of "post-war" schemes. Much work lies ahead, especially in the matter of housing, to make good the deterioration that has inevitably taken place, and I look forward to many years of service and co-operation in the future.

I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman of the Council and Public Health Committee, and to the members of the Council for their confidence, and to the Clerk of the Council, Medical Officer of Health, and members of the staff, whose ready co-operation is so greatly appreciated.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. ARMES,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*

*July, 1946.*

